Remarks

The Examiner admits that "Phaal does not specifically teach storing business rules regarding classification of various transactions, and using the business rules to obtain the classification information of the transactions".

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of all claims as being obvious from Phaal USPN 6 055 564 (commonly assigned with the present application to Hewlett Packard and thus arguably not even prior art under 35 USC 103) in view of Degenaro USPN 6 341 369 (assigned to IBM). In particular even if the references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the resulting combination would not be the claimed combination; moreover, such a combination is not apparent from the references themselves and it would be equally logical to suggest that leaving out the additional complexity of a business rule engine from the scheduling process would result in a simpler (and therefor presumably cheaper and more reliable) server would be "more attractive for the customers".

However, this rejection is based on a misreading of the teachings of Degenaro. Applicants and Degenaro use the word "classification" in completely different ways. In particular, Degenaro is concerned only with internal decision points in a process, and not with classification of a specific transaction request or of a specific response to the application of that process to such a request.

Degenaro describes a method to improve the flexibility of developers by creating rule-based branching points within applications. Degenaro labels such branch points as "control points." Logic at these control points is driven by the state of the application when it reaches the control point. "If a classifier rule determines that the current state of the application is one that it recognizes, then the name of the classification is returned. If the application's state is not recognized by a classifier rule, nothing is returned. The relevant classifications are ordered by precedence and are used with the control point name to select the actual decision rules to fire." [Column 4, Line 59-63]

"Classification", thus, is used by Degenaro to refer to the classification of the internal state of the application, not to classification of customer requests or customers. Indeed, Degenaro's business rules are not used for external classification of the process, but rather the classification categories associated with an internal control point of the process are used to determine the business rules to be applied at that point in the process.

The foregoing amendment merely clarifies these fundamental differences between the classification performed by Applicants and those performed by Degenaro. In particular, Applicants use classification by a business engine to generate a classification tag that is appended to a response to the requesting client so it can be

used in the servicing of subsequent related requests from the same requesting client.

The business engine analyzes the response, and the tag generator appends the

resultant classification to the response before it is returned to the requesting client.

Respectfully submitted,

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